



# Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Vol. 4, No. 12

December 2000

## Community Specialists Meet

Physical and nutritional support service clinicians from the Eastern Tennessee Region met in Knoxville on Friday, November 17, for the first Community Specialist Meeting. Almost 50 therapists, dietitians, and administrators attended from as far away as Johnson City and Chattanooga.

The East Regional Physical/Nutritional Management Team (RPNMT) organized the meeting. The agenda included Caira Anito, Director of Appeals, East Tennessee Regional Office, discussing the Grier Lawsuit.

A question and answer period followed. Questions included information on timely receipt of approved cost plans when "red flag" issues are identified. Questions were raised about the appropriateness of the OASIS form for people with mental retardation.

Jennifer Haas, Regional PNM Coordinator, shared information on upcoming clinical instruction courses including: Therapeutic Seating in November, Functional Communication (January 2-4), Therapeutic Positioning (February 13-15), Functional Assessment (April 10-12), and Mealtime Solutions (June 5-7). Each class is limited to 24 participants. Call Missy Crouch or Amy White at (423) 798-6262 to register.

Jennifer also shared new information regarding waiver funding. This included: rate changes, circle of support meetings are now considered billable for OT, PT and speech time as long as the person is in attendance, verbal orders by a licensed professional are now accepted, when written documentation is in the chart within 30 days.

Ms. Haas announced the Medicaid Wavier Guidelines for Therapy and Nutrition Services are being revised to include the changes. They will be available by the end of the year.

The physical therapists requested monthly meetings beginning in January 2001. Future discussion topics will include:

- The Role of the Physical Therapist (PT);
- Medical Model versus Functional Model;
- The importance of the Independent Support Plan (ISP) and the Independent Support Coordinator (ISC);
- Written Plans and Competency Testing;
- Reimbursement for Equipment;
- Case Studies;
- Behavioral Issues.

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## Protection From Harm Topic of Status Conference

A Status Conference was held on October 16, 2000 which focused on protection from harm issues.

Topics discussed in a presentation by Barbara Brent included: clinical oversight of investigations, mortality trend study recommendations, the abuse registry, life sustaining treatment policy, rates of substantiated investigations, and agency supervision plans.

Several of these topics will require follow-up at future status conferences, as the results of implementation activities become available. In fact, a status conference has been set for January 29, 2001 regarding protection from harm issues.

## DMRS Staff Announcement

### John Craven Heads East Tennessee Region

On October 16th, John Craven was appointed East Tennessee Regional Director. He is a dedicated employee with a long history of service on behalf of people with mental retardation in Tennessee.

Mr. Craven, who joined the DMHDD in 1975, has served in many capacities over the years and has a strong background in quality enhancement and systems change. Most recently, he served as the East Tennessee Deputy Regional Director and as the Acting Regional Director.

He holds a bachelor's degree in speech pathology and a master's degree with a specialty in audiology from East Tennessee State University.

## WEB POSTINGS

<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

Announcements, draft policies, final policies and information bulletins all appear on our Web site. Recent activities include:

### INFORMATION BULLETINS

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	EFFECTIVE DATE
00-21	Procedures for Responding to Case Referred for Investigation	Dennis Beard	10/19/00
00-22	Death Review Alert	Ruth Givens	11/2/00
00-23	Choking and CPR	Ruth Givens	11/14/00
00-24	Grief Process	Ruth Givens	11/14/00

# COMMUNITY SPECIALISTS MEET

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There will also be discussion regarding tours of the different facilities to include Greene Valley Development Center, Orange Grove Center, and Carr Rehab for seating and wheelchair needs.

The occupational therapists supported quarterly meetings with the first on March 20, 2001, at Smoky Mountain Home Health in Morristown. The topic will be Sensory Processing Disorders led by Marsha Poore, OTR/L, RPNMT.



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A publication of the  
Division of  
Mental Retardation  
Services

Don Sundquist, Governor  
Dr. C. Warren Neel, Commissioner  
Finance and Administration  
Barbara Brent, Deputy  
Commissioner, DMR Services

The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, Authorization No. 339315, 10,000 copies, November 1999. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.08 per

The dietitians requested quarterly meetings with the first to be held in March 2001. These meetings will be held in Knoxville. Nutrition documentation was discussed. Future topics include Nutrient/Medication Interactions, Osteoporosis and Nutrition, and Diet and Behavior.

The speech language pathologists plan to meet quarterly with the next meeting to be held February 9, 2001. Topics of interest include: Developing a Lending Library for Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology Equipment, An SLP Chat Room Online, How to Facilitate a Smooth Transition, Hands-on Demonstrations from Vendors, Recycling AAC/AT Equipment, and Adding AAC/AT and Environmental Controls to the Site Assessment.

The members of the RPNMT were pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm of all those in attendance. The meeting was the result of two years of work to organize and train clinicians to meet the needs of people with mental retardation.

## Conferences

**January 16, 2001, 10:30 AM  
Training on Title 33 Revisions**

Cokesbury Center Auditorium  
9915 Kingston Pike

Knoxville, Tennessee

**Open to the Public without Charge**

**January 24, 2001, 1:00 PM  
Training on Title 33 Revisions**

State Office Building

540 McCallie Avenue

Chattanooga, Tennessee

**Open to the Public without Charge**

## Central and Regional Information Specialists

PERSON	LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER
Larry Grimes	Central Office-Nashville	(615)532-6545	(615)532-9940
Kay Carlton	Memphis Regional Office	(901)685-3901 Ext.134	(901)685-3919
Elizabeth Gerlock	Nashville Regional Office	(615)231-5033	(615)231-5150
Fred Coe	Knoxville Regional Office	(865)588-0508 Ext.108	(865)594-5180

### Toll Free Lines

#### For Complaints or Information, Call

Central Office-Nashville	1-800-535-9725
Memphis Regional Office	1-800-308-2586
Nashville Regional Office	1-800-654-4839
Knoxville Regional Office	1-888-310-4613

### Web Site

Commission on Compliance/  
Division of Mental Retardation  
Services Web Site:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

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